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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL MARCH 10, 2015

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At 7:57 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

March 10, 2015

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Goodrich, Griffiths, Rizzo, Weideman and Mayor Furey.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, and 18B) Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Attorney and City Manager, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 and 54957(b)(1).

The City Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Barnett.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Goodrich.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO
WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, March 5, 2015.

MOTION: Councilmember Rizzo moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

City Manager Jackson reported that there have been requests to continue the hearing on Agenda Item 13A per supplemental material.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Goodrich announced that the Strategic Plan Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 24, at 3:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room and topics will include an overview of the Strategic Plan, a Funding Action Plan update and the 2013-2014 Community Report.

Councilmember Weideman announced that the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Third Floor Assembly Room to discuss the Torrance Rose Float Association's request for funding the 2016 Rose Parade float.

Councilmember Weideman announced that the Armed Forces Day Standing Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Third Floor Assembly Room to discuss the 2015 Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration.

Mayor Furey announced that at the request of Congress members Maxine Waters and Ted Lieu, the United States Chemical Safety Board has opened an investigation into the explosion that occurred on February 18, 2015 at the ExxonMobil refinery. He noted that CSB's chairman and one board member will visit the refinery on Wednesday, March 11, after which they will meet with the Mayor and the City Manager and his staff.

Mayor Furey requested that the Armed Forces Day Standing Committee explore options for creating a Veteran's Day program to be held on or around Veteran's Day and include cost estimates so funding can be considered during budget workshops.

Councilmember Ashcraft announced that the next Commissioner Certification class will be held on Tuesday, March 31, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Nakano Theatre. She noted that this class must be completed in order to apply for a position on City commissions and registration is available online at www.TorranceCA.gov/1936.htm or by calling 310-618-5880.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE AMERICAN RED CROSS AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring March as "American Red Cross Awareness Month" in the City of Torrance to Margaret Arbini-Madonna, Executive Director of Greater Long Beach & Rio Hondo Chapters of the American Red Cross, and Dan Thomas, Community Ambassador for Torrance.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE MULTIPLE MYELOMA AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring March as "Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month" in the City of Torrance to Jennie and Ronald Handy, co-leaders of the L.A. Multiple Myeloma Support Group.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Leilani Kimmel-Dagastino, Commission on Aging, announced that the 5th annual Senior Prom "Some Enchanted Evening" will be held on Friday, April 10, from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center, which will include music, dance lessons and refreshments, and tickets are available at the Bartlett Senior Center or by calling 310-320-5918.

7B. Georgean Griswold, Torrance Rose Float Association, announced that a Restaurants-for-Roses fundraiser will be held on Thursday, March 12, at the California Pizza Kitchen, with 20% of purchase to be donated to TRFA with presentation of flyer.

7C. Bob Chiota, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 53, announced that the organization will be awarding five scholarships to high school seniors and applicants must submit a 500-word essay describing how a Vietnam veteran has influenced their lives, with additional information at www.scholarships@VVA53.org.

7D. Donna Duperron, president/CEO of Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, thanked Mayor Furey for being proactive in expressing the city's strong support for the Los Angeles Air Force Base, citing his letter to the Secretary of Defense. She invited the public to attend the 2nd annual Police Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, March 26, at the Torrance Marriott.

7E. Brandon Matson, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, announced that the State of the State address will be presented during a luncheon on Wednesday, April 1, at the Doubletree Hotel, and reservations are available online at www.TorranceChamber.com.

7F. Michael Shafer, chef/restaurantier, reported that he is part of the group sponsoring the 25th annual Dylan Fest at Torino Plaza in May; related his understanding that there is a six-hour limit on the service of alcohol at this venue; and requested an one-time exemption so that alcohol can be served for seven hours as the event is eight hours long.

With the concurrence of Council, Mayor Furey directed staff to bring forward an agenda item regarding the requested exemption for Council consideration.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. 2014 URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) GRANT CONTRACT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Police Chief that City Council:

- 1) Accept the 2014 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant contract;
- 2) Appropriate and allocate the award in the amount of \$113,850 for counter-terrorism equipment and maintenance; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager as the city's signatory for the contract.

8B. PURCHASE ORDER FOR AUTOMATED REFUSE AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$37,163.45 from the Sanitation Container Replacement Fund balance for the purchase of automated recycling and refuse containers; and
- 2) Authorize a purchase order with Toter Incorporated of Statesville, NC in the amount of \$37,163.45 for the sole source purchase of 636 Toter automated curbside recycling and refuse containers.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. CITY COUNCIL TRAVEL BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council:

- 1) Consider pooling the City Council travel budget for remainder of current 2014-2015 fiscal year including recent travel to U. S. Conference of mayors and meeting with the U. S. Coast Guard; and
- 2) Provide direction to staff regarding adjusting the City Council travel budget as part of fiscal year 2015-2016 operating budget.

Councilmember Weideman announced that although he was advised by legal counsel that he could participate in the adjudication of this item, he was recusing himself because he could be nominally affected by it and exited the dais.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reviewed that staff recommendation and noted supplemental material listing the amount the City Council's yearly travel budget from 2008-09 to 2014-15.

Councilmember Ashcraft conceded that the Council's travel budget was currently very low as compared to six years ago, but expressed reservations about increasing it at this time since the economy has not fully recovered from the recession, which prompted the reductions. She noted that the City's budgetary outlook is "cautiously optimistic," and there's reason for additional caution because there will be a reduction in utility taxes as a result of the ExxonMobil refinery incident.

In response to Councilmember Ashcraft's inquiry, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan clarified that over half of the \$12,208 budgeted for travel in FY2014-2015 remains available and related his understanding that there are no major travel plans for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Mayor Furey reported that he suggested that the remainder of this year's travel budget be pooled because Councilmember Weideman's travel budget (\$1,664) was exhausted despite efforts to economize during his trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with the U.S. Coast Guard in conjunction with the 2015 Armed Forces Day Parade, which coincided with the mayor's trip to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He noted that the mayor and councilmembers have traveled to Washington, D.C., in past years to advocate for federal funding but it is becoming cost prohibitive due to rising hotel costs. He recommended that consideration be given to pooling the travel budget every year since some councilmembers do not take any trips and the funds allocated to them go back into the General Fund.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that he agrees the travel budget is inadequate and believes the Council should look into ways to increase it, but he was not in favor of pooling the funds. He suggested that pooling the travel budget would reward those who travel first and more extravagantly, while apportioning the funds separately encourages councilmembers to be more cost conscious and preserves their ability to travel later in the year when pooled funds could be exhausted. As an alternative to pooling funds, he proposed that any remaining funds in a councilmember's travel budget at the end of the year be used to reimburse councilmembers who have exceeded their budget.

Councilmember Goodrich questioned whether travel funds may be used for purposes of economic development, and City Manager Jackson confirmed that funding may be used for this purpose.

Councilmember Goodrich stated that he did not anticipate using his travel budget, but he felt it was necessary to keep up with the times and rising travel costs and the amount currently budgeted is actually very small. Noting that Mayor Furey has set out an ambitious economic development agenda, he related his belief that it was important to take advantage of opportunities in this area as they arise. He expressed support for pooling the remaining funds in the 2014-15 travel budget.

For the benefit of the public, Mayor Furey reported that the City Council's travel budget in FY2008-09 was \$55,000 and after a series of reductions, it is now \$12,208 or \$1,664 per councilmember and \$2, 224 for the mayor.

Mayor Furey invited public comment.

David Oster, Torrance, reported that he travels a lot with advocacy groups for the disabled and they have been able to obtain favorable rates from Southwest Airlines and Hawthorn Suites.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, expressed support for increasing the Council's travel budget, relating his experience that it was not uncommon to spend \$300 per night for a hotel when attending a conference.

MOTION: Councilmember Rizzo moved to approve the pooling of the City Council travel budget for remainder of FY 2014-2015, including recent travel to U. S. Conference of Mayors and meeting with the U. S. Coast Guard, and to direct staff to bring back options for adjusting the City Council travel budget as part of fiscal year 2015-2016 operating budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed as reflected in the following vote:

YES: Councilmembers Barnett, Goodrich, Rizzo and Mayor Furey
NO: Councilmembers Ashcraft and Griffiths
RECUSED: Councilmember Weideman

Councilmember Weideman returned to the dais at this time.

13. HEARINGS

13A. MOD14-00009, DVP14-00001, WAV14-00004: ASI DEVELOPMENT (7-ELEVEN #37117)

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that the case regarding property located in the H-DA2 Zone at 3401 Torrance Boulevard be continued to March 17, 2015 to allow for additional time for the applicants.

Community Development Director Gibson reported that the applicant/appellant has requested that this hearing be continued to March 17, 2015 and the property owner of the adjacent shopping center has requested that the item be continued to March 24, 2015.

In response to Councilmember Rizzo's inquiry, City Manager Jackson advised that either March 17 or March 24 was acceptable to staff.

Councilmember Griffiths recommended that the hearing be continued to the date when there would be the most participation of the parties involved.

Donna Duperron, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed support for the applicant/appellant's request to continue the hearing to March 17, 2015.

Andrea Munoz, representing ASi Development, applicant/appellant, indicated that she was amenable to a continuance to either March 17 or March 24.

Michael Sundstedt, legal counsel for adjacent business owners, requested that the hearing be continued to March 24 because he will be out of the country on March 17 and several adjacent business owners will also be unavailable.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to continue the hearing to March 24, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Furey announced that there will be no additional public notification because the hearing was considered to a date certain.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Goodrich reported that he helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the South Bay Junior Academy last Saturday night and thanked them for being part of the Torrance community.

17B. Councilmember Goodrich reported that he attended the ceremony for two Torrance youths who attained the rank of Eagle Scout on Sunday afternoon and congratulated them on their achievements.

17C. Councilmember Weideman announced that Torrance Fire Fighters Association will be holding their 44th annual Spaghetti Dinner benefitting the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation on Saturday, March 14, from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

17D. Councilmember Furey announced that the 5th Annual Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival will be held on Sunday, March 15, at Columbia Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., which will include food booths, entertainment and a children's art zone sponsored by Art to Grow.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:57 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey
Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier
City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on April 7, 2015